



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 4, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: John C. Austin, President

SUBJECT: Approval of State Board of Education Resolution on
Governor Snyder's Budget

The attached State Board of Education Resolution on Governor Snyder's Budget is being presented to the Board for approval.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the State Board of Education Resolution on Governor Snyder's Budget, as attached to the President's memorandum of March 4, 2011.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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March 4, 2011
Draft SBE Resolution on Governor Snyder's Budget

The Michigan Constitution invests the State Board of Education (SBE) with *“leadership and general supervision over all public education”*, and states the SBE *“shall serve as the general planning and coordinating body for all public education, including higher education, and shall advise the legislature as to the financial requirements in connection therewith.”*

Pursuant to its Constitutional duties, the State Board of Education made unanimous, bi-partisan recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on February 8, 2011 regarding *Education Improvement and Reform Priorities*. Included in these recommendations were a description of the threshold of needed educational services and means of paying for them, consistent with the Governor's call for a “pre-natal-to lifelong learning” education system. Subsequently Governor Snyder released his proposed 2012 and 2013 Budget proposals.

We applaud the Governor's commitment to a balanced and sustainable budget, asking for “shared sacrifice” from all stakeholders, pushing schools and educational institutions to find greater efficiencies and cost-savings, and reform of health care and pension systems. We also applaud his efforts to do so respecting collective bargaining and public employee unions.

We endorse the concept of a unified education vision that includes pre-K, K-12 and higher education, as a potential enabler of coherent and consistent attention to the important priority of increasing education and skill attainment over the lifetime of Michigan's citizens.

We do, however, believe the budget as proposed does not yet provide the financial requirements to fund “the threshold elements of the P-20 education system needed in Michigan to provide individual opportunity and economic success” as stated in our February 8, recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. These elements are:

- Universally available pre-school for all families of three-and four-year-olds who desire it
- All day kindergarten similarly available to all children
- K-12 state aid at funding levels sufficient to protect the quality of class-room instruction and direct educational services
- Financial support to make two years or more of post-secondary education or technical training available to all citizens
- Higher education operational support for Michigan's universities and community colleges at a level consistent with peer states

We encourage the Governor and the Legislature as they finalize this year's budget, and develop future year funding plans to provide the financial support needed for these core elements that constitute a quality Michigan education for all citizens.